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APPROVED BY:EUR:MR. ARMITAGE

EUR/SES:MR. FLOOD (DRAFT) EUR/SOV:MR. DYESS

CU/CP:MR. LEWIS

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SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOVIET RETALIATION AGAINST POSTPONEMENT
OF KIROV BALLET TOUR

REF: STATE 13460; MOSCOW 1027

SUMMARY: JUDGING FROM MINCULT CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY AND SUB-
SEQUENT DISCUSSION WITH CAMI BY DEPARTMENT, IT NOW APPEARS
THAT ROZHDESTVENSKIY CANCELLATION AND FAILURE OF SOVIETS TO
RESPOND BY JANUARY 21 ON "STARS OF BOLSHOI" TOUR WERE SLAP
AT CAMI FOR POSTPONEMENT OF KIROV TOUR BUT WILL NOT ADVERSE-
LY AFFECT OVERALL EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH SOVIETS IN PERFORM-
ING ARTS. END SUMMARY.

1. REAL REASON FOR CANCELLATION OF ROZHDESTVENSKIY TOUR
APPEARS TO BE MINCULT PIQUE AT CAMI'S POSTPONEMENT OF
KIROV TOUR. THIS CONCLUSION IS SUPPORTED BY SAKOVICH'S
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COMMENT TO DEPARTMENT ABOUT MOOD AT MINCULT AND BY

BUTROVA'S STATEMENT TO NALLE THAT MINCULT DID NOT THINK IT NECESSARY TO SATISFY CAMI. MOREOVER, FACT THAT CAMI LEARNED OF CANCELLATION INDIRECTLY, AT LAST MINUTE, AND WITHOUT OFFICIAL EXPLANATION OR APOLOGY WOULD APPEAR TO INDICATE CONSIDERABLE DETERIORATION IN CAMI'S STANDING AT MINCULT. INDICATIVE OF CAMI'S CHANGED ATTITUDE TOWARD MINCULT IS THEIR CHARACTERIZATION OF BUTROVA'S EXPLANATION TO NALLE ON CANCELLATION AS "A BUNCH OF NONSENSE, A TOTAL FABRICATION" WHICH CONTRADICTS ROZHDESTVENSKIY'S REMARKS TO CAMI.

2. ALTHOUGH CAMI TOLD DEPARTMENT THEY PLANNED CANCEL "STARS OF BOLSHOI BALLET" TOUR, THEY HAVE NOW DECIDED NOT TO DO SO. HOWEVER, THEY DID DECIDE NOT TO SIGN CONTRACT FOR BOLSHOI APPEARANCE AT METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE (MET) IN NEW YORK. CAMI HAD HOPED TO RECEIVE SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR LATEST PROPOSAL ON CONTRACT TERMS FOR BOLSHOI TOUR BY JANUARY 21. THIS DATE WAS KEYED TO DEADLINE FOR SIGNING CONTRACT AT MET FOR BOLSHOI ENGAGEMENT THERE. WITHOUT ASSURANCE THAT BOLSHOI CONTRACT WOULD BE CONCLUDED, CAMI DID NOT WISH INCUR FINANCIAL OBLIGATION WHICH MET CONTRACT ENTAILED. CONSEQUENTLY, MET MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE WHEN CONTRACT FOR BOLSHOI TOUR IS CONCLUDED. ACCORDING TO CAMI, THERE IS REAL LIKELIHOOD THAT BOLSHOI WILL NOT APPEAR IN NYC AT ALL.

3. ROZHDESTVENSKIY AND BOLSHOI CASES APPEAR TO HAVE HAD STRONG IMPACT ON CAMI'S ATTITUDE TO SOVIETS. CAMI TOLD DEPARTMENT JANUARY 22 THAT ITS POLICY WITH REGARD TO SOVIETS WILL CHANGE DRASTICALLY. WHEREAS CAMI OFFICIALS PREVIOUSLY SOUGHT OUT SOVIETS AND PRODDED AND BEGGED THEM, ACCORDING TO CAMI, THEY WILL NOW "LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE" AND ALLOW MATTERS TO SIT UNTIL SOVIETS SEE FIT TO RESPOND. MOREOVER, CAMI SAID THEY WILL NO LONGER RUN FINANCIAL RISK OF CANCELLATIONS. THEY ALSO PLAN TO REFRAIN FROM SCHEDULING TOURS FOR MAJOR NATIONAL GROUPS, LETTING HUOK "CARRY THE BALL", AND WILL HANDLE ONLY SMALLER GROUPS OR INDIVIDUAL PERFORMERS.

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4. AT PRESENT TIME, IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT ROZHDESTVENSKIY AND BOLSHOI CASES WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT OVERALL EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH USSR IN PERFORMING ARTS. HUOK CONCERTS HAS HAD NO INDICATION THAT CAMI'S POSTPONEMENT OF KIROV TOUR WILL AFFECT THEIR PROGRAM. HUOK CABLED FURTSEVA TO STATE HE HAD NO ENERGY-RELATED PROBLEMS. HE TOLD DEPARTMENT HE HAS

SIGNED CONTRACTS FOR SOVIET GROUPS HE PLANS BRING AND
IS WILLING PICK UP ANY GROUPS CAMI CANCELS. MOREOVER,
AS EMBASSY AWARE, OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIETS RE-
GARDING 1974 TOURS IN USSR BY AMERICAN PERFORMING ARTS
GROUPS ARE PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY. KISSINGER

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